

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND ITS ANTECEDENTS NOVEMBER 1908 - 2008

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1 November 1915. Capt. Raynal C. Bolling organized and was appointed commander of the First Aero Company, New York National Guard. His organization is recognized as the first genuine National Guard Aviation unit.¹

November 1920. Maj. Gen. Milton Reckord, the Adjutant General of Maryland, met with members of the American Flying Club, a civilian organization promoting the development of aviation in the U.S., to discuss the possibility of establishing a National Guard flying squadron in his state. Most of the members of the club were Army Reserve officers who were flyers. Their meeting with General Reckord was a key event leading to the creation of an observation squadron in the Maryland National Guard in 1921.²

17 November 1921. The 102nd Squadron (redesignated the 102nd Observation Squadron on 25 January 1923), New York National Guard, received federal recognition. One of its original organizers and early commanders was Lt. Col. George A. Vaughan, a veteran combat pilot with 9.5 kills in Europe during World War I.³

18 November 1921. The 101st Squadron, Massachusetts National Guard, received federal recognition. (It was redesignated the 101st Observation Squadron on 25 January 1923.)⁴

1 November 1923. The 118th Observation Squadron, Connecticut, received federal recognition.⁵

12 November 1940. The 126th Observation Squadron, Wisconsin National Guard, received federal recognition.⁶

9-10 November 1942. The 111th, 122nd, and 154th Observation Squadrons arrived in Morocco to participate in Operation Torch as elements of the Army Air Force's 68th Observation Group. They were equipped with Douglass A-20s.⁷

8 November 1943. The last 16 personnel of the Louisiana National Guard's 122nd Observation Squadron were transferred to a new unit, the 855th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy). Equipped primarily with B-17s, the 855th flew special missions, including dropping agents and supplies to partisans in occupied Europe, for the rest of the war from bases in Algeria and Italy.⁸

12 November 1949. Lt. Gen. Ennis C. Whitehead, the commander of the Continental Air Command (CONAC), wrote that “at best the Air National Guard represents aircraft in flyable storage.” CONAC was responsible for supervising the ANG for the Air Force.⁹

1 November 1950. All ANG tactical units were reorganized under the Air Force combat wing type organization. That action increased the authorized strength of the Air Guard from 57,382 to 67,000 personnel. The Air Guard’s actual assigned strength at that time was only 49,500 personnel because of budgetary limitations.¹⁰

November 1950. Large numbers of Communist Chinese ground forces crossed the Yalu River into Korea and entered the war against the United Nations’ forces led by the United States.¹¹

1 November 1951. ANG units called into federal service this date because of the Korean War included the: 110th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&WS), South Carolina; 114th AC&WS, Florida; 155th AC&WG, Ohio; 121st AC&WS, Ohio; 122^d AC&WS, Indiana; 123rd AC&WS, Ohio; 124th AC&WS, Oklahoma; 125th AC&WS, Missouri; 126th AC&WS, Missouri; 131st AC&WS, Missouri; 133^d AC&WS, Iowa; 155th Aircraft Control and warning Group (AC&WG), Ohio; and the 157th AC&WG, Missouri.¹²

5 November 1951. Col. Albert Prendergast, commander of the Air Guard’s 136th Fighter Bomber Wing, was shot down and killed during a combat mission over Korea.¹³

28 November 1951. Elements of the Florida ANG’s 159th Fighter Bomber Squadron, including 13 F-84s, arrived at Teague AB, Korea from Japan for a short combat tour and began flying combat missions that same day. They bombed rail lines near Wonsan, North Korea as part of the campaign to interdict the flow of communist supplies to the battle front.¹⁴

26 November 1953. A C-47 assigned to the 179th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Minnesota ANG, flew two tons of clothes donated by Duluthians to Los Angeles, California for shipment to Korean orphans.¹⁵

14 November 1956. The Air Defense Command opposed equipping ANG units with complicated missile-firing fighters which it believed were probably beyond the capability of the latter to maintain and operate effectively. In a complete reversal of its earlier recommendations, the command urged that no more than 30 percent of Air Guard fighter squadrons be equipped with all-weather interceptors and another 30 percent be given day fighters while the remaining

flying units were converted to rescue and transport missions.¹⁶

1 November 1959. The 119th Fighter Interceptor Group, North Dakota ANG, began converting to F-89Js from F-89Ds to perform its 24-hour air defense alert mission. The F-89J carried two MB-1 “Genie” nuclear armed air-to-air missiles.¹⁷

1 November 1961. The Air Force mobilized three ANG fighter interceptor squadrons equipped with F-104A/Bs to help deal with the Berlin crisis.¹⁸

2 November 1961. To reinforce NATO during the Berlin crisis, the first of 216 ANG jet fighter, reconnaissance, and trainer aircraft from mobilized units reached their bases in western Europe during Operation Stair Step. The entire island-hopping deployment across the Atlantic Ocean was completed without losing a single plane. It was the largest aircraft deployment operation in the Air Guard’s history.¹⁹

28 November 1962. An Air Guard C-97 and crew from Oklahoma’s 125th Air Transport Group completed a 14-day, 21,000 mile flight around the world to dramatize the ANG’s emerging status as a truly global force. Along the way, it delivered 14 prize breeding cattle to Kabul, Afghanistan as part of the Air Guard’s first diplomatic mission.²⁰

November 1965. Beginning this month and lasting into December, 76 ANG aircrews operating 19 C-121s and 59 C-97s made the 96-hour round trip to South Vietnam from the US to deliver over 400 tons of Christmas gifts, mail, and other treats to American servicemen during Operation Christmas Star.²¹

17 November 1966. The first of 433 personnel from 17 Air Guard Ground Electronics Engineering Agency (GEEIA) units arrived in France to aid the Air Force in Operation Fast Race. The mission of those GEEIA personnel was to quickly remove Air Force ground communications and electronics gear from France after President Charles DeGaulle decided to withdraw his nation from active military participation in NATO and close all U.S. bases on its soil. The operation was completed in February 1967 well ahead of the 31 March 1967 deadline established by the French government.²²

November 1967. Former Air Guard Chaplain, Army Captain Charles J. Watters was killed in action near Dak To, Vietnam after rescuing seven wounded soldiers and administering last rites to several dying men during an attack on his unit. For his heroism, the former member of New Jersey’s 108th Tactical Fighter Wing received the Medal of Honor posthumously. Watters had taken a reduction in rank and transferred to the active Army in 1965 so he could serve in the combat zone as a chaplain.²³

November 1978. ANG C-130s and volunteer crews from Missouri's 139th Tactical Airlift Group and Oklahoma's 137th Tactical Airlift Group which had been deployed to Panama on a Volant Oak rotation, participated in recovery operations following the tragedy of mass suicides at Jonestown, Guyana. They flew 111 hours while airlifting 208 passengers and 77,500 pounds of cargo. Altogether, 51 ANG aircrew members and crew chiefs flew into Guyana.²⁴

15 November 1980. Personnel from the New Mexico ANG's 150th Tactical Fighter Group and eight of their A-7s arrived at Egypt's Cairo West Airport for "Bright Star," an exercise sponsored by the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force. It marked the beginning of Air Guard training deployments to the Middle East outside of Turkey to prepare for possible U.S. military intervention in that critical region.²⁵

11 November 1982. Astronaut and former California ANG fighter pilot Vance DeVoe Brand served as commander of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* (STS-5) launched this date on the first fully operational flight of the Shuttle Transportation System. His mission returned safely to earth on 16 November 1982.²⁶

24 November 1982. In response to Hurricane Iwa, which did hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damage to Hawaii, members of the Air Guard's 202nd Air Traffic Control Flight on Kauai maintained the only official communications channel that remained open between that island and the rest of the world during the worst of the storm. After the storm ended, the Hawaii Air Guard's C-7 cargo plane flew the first of 38 missions carrying equipment and supplies to the island of Kauai. Air Guardsmen also provided generators from Oahu, Maui, and the big island of Hawaii to Kauai to pump water and help maintain emergency services.²⁷

28 November 1983. Astronaut Byron K. Lichtenberg, a Massachusetts Air Guard A-10 pilot, was a member of the Spacelab -1 crew which was launched into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle *Challenger* (STS-9) on this date. The mission lasted 10 days. Lichtenberg was the first NASA payload specialist to be launched on a space mission.²⁸

30 November 1984. Lt. Col. Ned M. Cole, Jr. of the 152nd Tactical Control Group, New York ANG, traveled a record setting distance of approximately 10,400 miles from Peking, China to Syracuse, New York to participate in a unit training assembly.²⁹

1 November 1988. Maj. Gen. Philip G. Killey, a South Dakota Air Guardsman, became the Director of the Air National Guard. He was a Vietnam combat

veteran and had served as the Adjutant General of his state.³⁰

4 November 1990. The Pentagon announced that Guard and Reserve combat units would be called up for possible deployment to the Persian Gulf region.³¹

10-12 November 1992. During the annual ANG senior commanders conference at Atlantic City, New Jersey, Maj. Gen. Phil Killey, the ANG Director, publicly unveiled his strategic vision for reshaping the ANG to meet the challenges of the post Cold War era. The ANG would try to broaden its portfolio of flying missions to include acquiring bomber units as well as more airlift and tanker units in addition to seeking new missions like space for some of its support units. The Air Directorate, NGB, would attempt to preserve all ANG flying units and protect the jobs of their personnel. To accomplish those goals, it would aggressively seek out alternative missions to rerole some ANG flying units, reduce the number of aircraft assigned to each unit, combine similar units at the same location if necessary, and, as a last resort, close down flying units.³²

12 November 1993. Gen. John M. D. Schalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, approved air reserve component augmentation of active duty Air Force forces in Operation Provide Comfort that was aiding the Kurds in northern Iraq.³³

15 November 1993. ANG fighter aircraft and volunteers began participating in Operation Deny Flight, the enforcement of a U.N.-sponsored no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. The aircraft were stationed at Aviano Air Base, Italy and operated under NATO command.³⁴

November 1994. *The On Guard* newspaper reported that 22 Air Guard combat communications specialists from 5 states had deployed to Haiti and 15 Guard airlift units had hauled nearly 500 tons of equipment while logging over 150 missions to that island nation during the US military intervention there which began in September 1994 and was known as Operation Uphold Democracy.³⁵

November 1994. *The On Guard* newspaper reported that, although first permitted by law in 1951 and used on a limited basis thereafter, the forging of interstate compacts to provide mutual humanitarian assistance had been recently revitalized when 19 southern states signed an agreement enabling their National Guard organizations to assist each other more quickly and efficiently in supplying emergency assistance.³⁶

1 November 1997. Lt. Col. Linda K. McTague was assigned as commander of the 201st Airlift Squadron, District of Columbia ANG. She was the first woman

to serve as commander of an Air Guard flying squadron.³⁷

9 November 2001. The number of Air Guard volunteers serving in response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States and other taskings peaked at 12,864.³⁸

24 November 2004. The Secretary of the Air Force and the Air Force Chief of Staff signed a letter that directed MAJCOM commanders to provide plans no later than 17 January 2005 to test key initiatives for more closely integrating Guard and Reserve assets into active duty units and operations.³⁹

29 November 2005. From 30 August 2005 through this date, the Air Guard had flown 4,132 airlift sorties in relief efforts after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated parts of the southeastern US. It had airlifted 34,639 passengers and carried 11,496 tons of cargo during those relief efforts. In addition, its transports had evacuated 2,046 patients from the region. ANG combat controllers in helicopters evacuated another 23,604 endangered people in Louisiana and Mississippi and moved them to local safe havens.⁴⁰

November 2007. *Air Force Magazine* reported that the House Armed Services Committee had, in the Fiscal Year 2008 authorization bill, directed the USAF and ANG leadership to jointly study acquiring F-35s for ANG units to conduct homeland defense air patrol sorties.⁴¹

28 November 2007. The Air Guard formally stood up the first of its planned MQ-1 predator units at March Air Reserve Base, California on this date. The California ANG's 163rd Air Refueling Wing (ARW) became the 163rd Reconnaissance Wing (RW).⁴²

NOTES

¹ Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p. 30.

² Col. Ron Ball, Executive Editor, *The Maryland Air National Guard: A Commemorative History, 1921-2000*, (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 2000), p. 25.

³ Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 19; Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p. 39.

⁴ Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 19.

⁵ Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 19.

⁶ Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 19.

⁷ Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 32.

⁸ Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 33.

⁹ Monograph (U), Richard F. McMullen, "The Air National Guard in Air Defense, 1946-1971," (Ent AFB, CO: ADC Historical Study No. 38, undated), p. 11.

¹⁰ Memo for Record (U) Col. Floyd E. Evans, USAF, Chief NG Div., Office, SA/RF, Subj.: "The Air National Guard," 8 February 1951, RG 341 (300.61), National Archives, p. 2.

¹¹ Ritchie, "History of the 116th FIS, 1951-1952" p. 2.

¹² Paper (U), "ANG Units Into Active Military Service," Air National Guard Unit Data Cards, Air National Guard Historical Archives.

¹³ Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p 45.

¹⁴ Robert Hawk, *Florida's Air Force: Air National Guard, 1946-1990*, (St. Augustine, FL: Florida National Guard Historical Association, 1990), pp 41-49; McLaren, *Republic F-84 Photo Chronicle*, p 114; Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p 80.

¹⁵ James H. Juntti, Compiler and Editor, *The 148th Fighter Wing: The First Fifty Years*, (Duluth, MN: 148th Fighter Wing 50th Anniversary Committee, 1998), inside front cover.

¹⁶ Study (S/RD/NOFORN), "The Air National Guard In Air Defense," p 45, info used was (U).

¹⁷ Francillon, *The United States Air National Guard*, p 151; Maj. S.I. Gifford, Editor, *The Happy Hooligans: North Dakota Air National Guard , Thirtieth Anniversary, 1947-1977*, (ND ANG, undated), p 44.

¹⁷ Maj. LeRoy H. Meyer (Ret), Editor, *The Story of the 184th / 127th Kansas Air National Guard, McConnell AFB, Wichita, Kansas, 1941-1986*, (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., December 1985), pp 62-63.

¹⁷ Col. Fred H. Bailey, Jr., NE ANG, Coordinator-Editor, *Ready And Able: The Story of the Nebraska Air National Guard, 1946 to 1981*, (Nebraska ANG, 1981), p 20.

¹⁸ Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p 91.

¹⁹ Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 60; Gross, *American*

Military Tradition, pp. 90-91; Monograph (U), Royce E. Eckwright, "Air National Guard Deployment To USAFE Area, 1961-1962" USAFE Historical Division OI, December 1962, p. 17.

²⁰ Article (U), Major James Elliott, "Mission to Kabul Takes 97 Crew Around the World," *The National Guardsman*, January 1963, pp. 69.

²¹ Gross, *Adapting the Force*, p. 27.

²² Article (U), Richard Sanderson, Chief, IO, GEEIA, " 'Fast Race' Entered and Won," *The Air Reservist*, February 1967, pp. 8-9; Cook, *Through Airmen's Eyes*, p. 43.

²³ News Item (U), "Ex-Air Guard Chaplain Wins Medal Of Honor," *The National Guardsman*, February 1970, p. 33.

²⁴ Article (U), Lt Col. Tom Beal, 139th TAG, Missouri ANG, "Airlift to Guyana," *National Guard*, January 1979, pp. 4-7, 39.

²⁵ Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1980, pp. 79-80.

²⁶ Biographical Data (U), NASA, Vance DeVoe Brand, June 2001.

²⁷ Article (U), "States in Double-Trouble Call Out Guard," *National Guard*, April 1983, p.30.

²⁸ Article (U), "From Fighter Jocks to Astronauts: Guardsmen Take to the Heavens," *National Guard*, September 1983, pp. 16-18, 35; Biographical Data (U), Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, NASA, Subj.: "Byron K. Lichtenberg, SC.D., Payload Specialist," October 2002, <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/lichtenberg-bk.html>.

²⁹ Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1984, p. 266, info used was (U).

³⁰ Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p. 197; Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1986-CY 1991, Appendix B, info used was (U); Biography (U), NGB, Maj. Gen. Philip G. Killey, Retired 1 March 2003, **DOC 2006-24**.

³¹ Gross, *Persian Gulf Crisis*, p. 27.

³² Hist (U), ANG, CY 1992-CY 1994, pp. 49-50.

³³ Hist (S), History of the Air Combat Command, 1 Jan - 31 Dec 93, ACC/HO, June 1994, p. 127, info used (U); Article (U), "Fighter Units Coming Home," Air Force Times, 24 January 1994, p. 18; Hist (U), Historical Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense, *Department of Defense Key Officials, 1947-1995*, May 1995, p. 60.

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³⁶ Article (U), LTC David Super, NGB, "Plotting The Response," *The On Guard*, November 1994, p. 9.

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³⁹ Memo (U) Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, to All MAJCOM Commanders, Subj.: "Future Total Force Implementation Plan," 24 November 2004, SD II-64, p. 1, Hist (S/NOFORN), ANG, CY 2001-CY 2004, info used was (U).

⁴⁰ Paper (U), CMSgt David P. Anderson, ANG History Office, Subj.: "ANG Airlift: Hurricane Katrina/Rita, 30 August to 29 November 2005," ca September 2006, DOC 2006-28.

⁴¹ News Item (U), "Will Guard Units Get F-35?," *Air Force Magazine*, November 2007, p 17.

⁴² News Item (U), "ANG Opens Predator Operations," *Air Force Magazine*, February 2007, pp 18, 20.